AGENDA ITEM: Telecommunications Infrastructure

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS:

Telecommunication Infrastructure

Staff is reviewing the telecommunications infrastructure services submitted as part of each region's plan of service for 2001 - 2002. These include telecom connections, web site development and maintenance, email discussion lists, videoconferencing, virtual indexes and databases, virtual catalogs, regional technology planning, technology inventory and technology related training.

Plans are underway for another meeting in Sacramento for telecommunications infrastructure staff from each region. We will review current activities and plans for the coming year. Topics will also include standards criteria for resource sharing projects, advice for staff on future courses of action, and discussion on the successes and difficulties experienced by each region.

Other programs of Interest to the Board

E-Rate Program

The Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) provides affordable access to telecommunications services for all eligible schools and libraries in the United States. The USAC is a not-for-profit corporation appointed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure that the benefits of telecommunications services reach students and communities across the country. Funded at up to $2.25 billion annually, the Program provides discounts on telecommunications services, Internet access and internal connections.

The California State Library is responsible for the approval of technology plans from each applicant public library.

Funding commitment letters for year four applicants have begun to be mailed out by the SLD. These "waves" of mailouts will continue for the next few weeks. Successful applicants will now need to certify that they have taken some actions in regards to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) on the form used to request payment for services under contract for the E-Rate discount.

Z39.50 Grants

Staff continue to work with grant recipients from the 2000 – 2001 fiscal year grant program to complete reporting requirements and resolve any outstanding issues. The application and reporting forms for the CLSA Z39.50 grant and subsidy programs have been reviewed with the CLSA staff. A listing of connection information for Z39.50 accessible libraries is being prepared for deployment of the LoC web site.

RELATED ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:
Development of Regional Telecommunications programs.

Relevant Committee: Support Services
Staff Liaison: Ira Bray

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